

Application No.: 09/973,878

Docket No.: 20402-00635-US

**REMARKS**

Prior to an examination of this application on the merits, an interview was held with Examiner Lorengo on October 23, 2003, who courteously received Mr. T. Ishihara and the attorney of record, Morris Liss. During the course of the interview, the nature of the present application was discussed and demonstrated. The importance of an integral reference band as set forth in claim 1 and indicated by reference numeral 16 was discussed relative to the prior art listed in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement. The IDS lists two patent abstracts of Japan and this prior art requires the alignment of a separate pin member with the carrier tapes that are to be connected. During the interview, the Examiner appreciated the differences between the presently claimed invention and the demonstrated prior art.

The foregoing amendment corrects a number of informalities and also broadens claim 1 so as to clarify the fact that the reference band need not necessarily be belt-like. Also, independent claim 1 deletes the inclusion of a cover film (19) covering the bonding tape.

Newly added claim 35 introduces the cover film (19) and further specifies the use of a cover film (19).

A number of informalities have been corrected in the specification so that the application is now ready for an examination on the merits.

In view of the above, consideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In the event the Examiner believes an interview might serve to advance the prosecution of this application in any way, the undersigned attorney is available at the telephone number noted below.

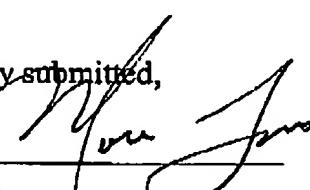
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The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees, or credit any overpayment, associated with this communication, including any extension fees, to CBLH Deposit Account No. 22-0185.

Dated: October 28, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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